Delay in issuing passports from Calicut Passport Office

1650. SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is long delay in issuing passports from Calicut Passport Office;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are being taken to reduce the delay?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Passport Office Kozhikode is able to issue passports after six months of receiving application.

(b) (i) In 1991 about 2.05 lakh applications for fresh passports were received compared to 1.21 lakh received in 1990.

(ii) Staff and budgetary constraints.

(iii) Manual writing of passports.

(c) Passport procedures have been simplified to facilitate expeditious issue of passports services. The details are given in the statement. (Please refer to the statement appended to USQ 1593). Four more officers have been transferred to P.O. Kozhikode to speed up issue of passport services.

Capture of fishing boats/fishermen by Pakistan

1651. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases reported during the last two years of capture of fishing boats/fishermen by Pakistan from the Kutch-Saurashtra region of Gujarat;

(b) the number of fishermen so far repatriated and the number of them yet be repatriated to the country; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Over the past two years, 25 fishing boats and 181 fishermen have been reportedly captured by Pakistan.

(b) 20 Indian fishing boats along with 140 fishermen were released and repatriated in March-April, 1991. Five boats and 41 fishermen are yet to be repatriated; and

(c) We have approached the Government of Pakistan and initiated steps to secure the early release of these 5 boats and 41 fishermen.

रूस और भारत के बीच नई राजनैतिक सन्धि को अन्तिम रूप दिया जाना

1652. श्री राम जेठमलानी :
सरदार जगजीत सिंह अरोड़ा :

क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान 16 जनवरी, 1992 के "इंडियन एक्सप्रैस" में "इंडिया, रसिया फाइनलाइज न्यू पोलिटिकल ट्रीटी" शीर्षक से प्रकाशित समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संन्धि में शामिल किए गए प्रमुख मुद्दे क्या-क्या हैं और इस संबंध में क्या निर्णय लिया गया है ;

(ग) क्या उपर्युक्त संधि में यह निर्णय लिया गया है कि भविष्य में भारत और रूस के बीच रुपये और रूबल में व्यापार होगा ; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में तथ्य क्या हैं ?

विदेश मंत्री (श्री माधवसिंह सोलंकी) : (क) जी हां ।

(ख) से (घ) प्रस्तावित संधि पर अभी बातचीत चल रही है। इसमें जो और विशिष्ट बातें शामिल की जानी हैं उन्हें इसे अन्तिम रूप देने के बाद ही परिभाषित किया जाएगा।

Refusal of visa to students pursuing studies in U.S.A.

1653. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that students who want to pursue future studies in a country like USA are refused visa without any reason; and

(b) whether Government propose to consider the applications first before these are decided by U.S. Embassy and recommend genuine cases?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) The Government are aware that many Indian students obtain visas for pursuing higher studies in the USA and many are unable to obtain visas for the same purpose.

(b) No, Sir.

Repatriation of Indian crew from Pakistan

1654. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:

SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation dated 8th February, 1992 from the President, Machhimar Boat Association, Porbandar, regarding the repatriation of five fishing vessels and fortyone fishermen seized by the Pakistan authorities;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that Pakistani Marine Security agency seized 5 fishing trawlers and 41 fishermen in December, 1991 from the coast line of the North-West coast of Kutch on the ground that their vessels and crew have encroached into their area;

(c) whether the Indian crew are still in Pakistani jail; and

(d) if so, what steps Government have taken or propose to take for the immediate repatriation of Indian crew and their vessels from the Pakistani authorities, to avoid such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Government have taken up the matter with the Government of Pakistan. Steps have been initiated to secure the earliest possible release and repatriation of 41 Indian fishermen and the return of the 5 boats.

Help sought from permanent members of Security Council on Kashmir issue

1655. SHRI SATCHIDANANDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government sought the help of permanent members of Security Council in the wake of JKLF threat to cross the line of actual control;

(b) whether it is in conformity with the policy of Government for not seeking the intervention of third country in Kashmir Affairs; and

(c) what action has been taken to ensure that the areas of Kashmir occupied by Pakistan is liberated?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

Government's consistent position remain unchanged i.e. under the Simla Agreement all differences with Pakistan are to be resolved bilaterally and